

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 9 (currently amended): Process for the remelting of glass bars, with the following features:

 a glass bar ~~(2)~~ is introduced into the upper end of a receiving shell ~~(1)~~;
 underneath the receiving shell ~~(1)~~ there is made available a molten bath ~~(7)~~
with a surface ~~(7.1)~~;

 the receiving shell ~~(1)~~ is positioned in such manner that its lower edge is located at the height of the surface ~~(7.1)~~ or above it;

 the lower end of the glass bar ~~(2)~~ is heated to a temperature above the softening temperature of the glass;

 the melt-off process is controlled in such manner that a continuous melt stream enters the molten bath ~~(7)~~ with avoidance of a constriction;

 melt is drawn off from the molten bath ~~(7)~~ by means of an arrangement for drop generation.

Claim 10 (currently amended): Process according to claim 9, characterized in that the melting-off of the glass bar ~~(2)~~ is performed by the coupling of electric energy into the crucible unit or by radiation heating elements, or by burner ~~(blowpipe)~~ heating.

Claim 11 (currently amended): Process according to claim 9, characterized in that the glass throughput is controlled by the means that at least one of the following parameters is altered:

 by the amount of the supplied energy;

 by the spacing between the under edge of the receiving shell ~~(1)~~ and the liquid surface ~~(7.1)~~ of the molten bath ~~(7)~~;

 by a choking of the glass stream emerging from the bath ~~(7)~~.

Application Serial No. 09/748,974
Amendment dated June 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated March 19, 2003

Claim 12 (currently amended): Process according to claim 9, characterized in that the glass bars (2) used have in each case at least one end which closes off with a convex form ~~(for example a cone, a hemisphere)~~ or with a flat surface, in order to avoid an inclusion of gas at the bar-to-bar impact point.